



STATE OF MICHIGAN

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING

K. L. COOL
DIRECTOR

SILVER LAKE STATE PARK OFF-ROAD VEHICLE AREA

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Off-roading can be fun and exciting for the whole family. Make it a safe experience for yourself and other park visitors. Please follow the rules that have been made for everyone's safety and security. Sand dunes are subject to rapid topographic changes resulting from winds and erosion. Be alert for steep inclines, changing slopes, natural hazards and/or sudden drop-offs. Always operate your vehicle at a safe speed and in a safe manner.

GENERAL RULES

There are a number of general rules that apply to all operators using the Silver Lake Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Area. Specific vehicle regulations and requirements follow this section.

- The Off-Road Vehicle Area is open each year from April 1 through October 31.
 - April 1 – May 15 and the day after Labor Day – October 31 it is open 9:00a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
 - May 16 – Labor Day it is open 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.
 - Access to the ORV Area and Dunes is stopped ½ hour ahead of closing time, every evening.
- Current vehicle permits are required on all vehicles using the area.
 - All motor vehicles entering the Park must display a Michigan State Park Motor Vehicle Permit.
 - All motor vehicles entering the Dunes must also display a Michigan ORV Registration.
- Entry Vouchers are required on summer weekends and holidays.
- No alcoholic beverages are allowed throughout the year in and around the ORV Area.
- Operate vehicles only within the dune area marked with orange boundary markers.
- Obey Directional Traffic Zone signage. No north-bound traffic in high dune areas.
- Rectangular, safety orange flags reaching 10 foot in height required on all ORVs.
- Michigan Child Passenger Safety Law in effect in ORV Area.
- Emergency strobe, flashing, rotating and/or blinking lights and sirens prohibited.
- Helmets are required to operate ATVs and motorcycles in parking lot as well as in dunes.
- Special regulations for un-licensed and young (12 – 16 years of age) operators.
- Headlight(s), taillight(s) and brake light(s) required on vehicles ½ hour after sunset.
- ATVs and motorcycles: operator only, no passengers at any time.
- Please report accidents, injuries and/or emergencies to State Park personnel or 911.

Off-road riding and driving can be dangerous – DRIVE SAFELY

VEHICLE REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

Specific vehicle equipment regulations and requirements are covered by the current Land Use Order of the Director (LUOD) and are listed below. If you have any questions about the requirements or rules, please contact Silver Lake State Park officials at the following address. The LUOD reads in part:

By authority conferred on the Director of the Department of Natural Resources by Section 504 of Act No. 451 of the Public Acts of 1994, as amended, being section 324.504 of the Michigan Compiled Laws and in accordance with R 299.671 and R 299.922 of the Michigan Administrative Code, the Director of the Department of Natural Resources orders that the following order of the Land Use Orders of the Director shall read as follows:

5.9 Off-road vehicles, Silver Lake State Park Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Area, conditions for use, prohibited conduct.

Order 5.9. A person shall not do any of the following on all state lands of Silver Lake State Park posted as the ORV Area, Oceana County:

(5) Operate any motor vehicle with four or more wheels that does not contain a seat and individual seat belt for each occupant of that vehicle. Those vehicles with automotive-type seating and fewer than four wheels shall be equipped with a seat belt for each occupant. Vehicle operators shall comply with the provisions of the Michigan child passenger safety law, MCL 257.710d, and all of the following provisions:

- (a) Seat belts shall be in use by all occupants while the vehicle is in operation.
- (b) An approved automotive manufactured restraining device, such as a lap belt or three- or four-point harness, is an acceptable seat belt.
- (c) Seat belts and restraining devices, other than factory installed, shall be secured by bolting to the vehicle floor, frame, or roll bar.
- (d) Any vehicle on which the operator straddles the seat, such as a motorcycle or an all-terrain vehicle (ATV), will be limited to the operator only as the sole occupant and no seat belt will be required.
- (6) Operate a vehicle requiring seat belts where an occupant in the rear seat is not protected by a roll bar located immediately behind the occupant's seat as described in subsection (8) unless the rear seat occupants are wearing a safety approved for automotive use (A.N.S.I. or equal) helmet. The operator or occupant of a vehicle not required to meet seat belt specifications shall wear a safety helmet approved for automotive use (A.N.S.I. or equal) and protective eyewear.
- (7) Operate a vehicle requiring seat belts without a warning flag mounted and extending over the front-most portion of the vehicle. Vehicles not requiring seat belts shall mount the warning flag on the rear of the vehicle. Vehicle operators shall comply with all of the following requirements:

(a) The warning flag shall be mounted on a staff that is securely bolted or welded to the vehicle. The warning flag shall maintain a minimum 10-foot height at standstill and a minimum 8-foot height under motion.

(b) The warning flag shall be mounted on the top-most end of the staff. The flag shall be rectangular, international orange in color, solid material, with a minimum length on the supporting side of five inches and a minimum length on the base side of 10 inches.

(8) Operate a vehicle requiring seat belts that is not equipped with an integral steel roof, or roll bar located immediately behind the operator, or roll cage, capable of supporting the weight of the vehicle. The operator and occupants of a vehicle without a full front windshield shall wear protective eyewear. The operator of a vehicle equipped with a roll bar shall comply with all the following requirements:

(a) The roll bar shall be welded or bolted to the floor or frame of the vehicle.

(b) The roll bar shall be braced in such a manner as to prevent collapse.

(c) The roll bar shall have clearance above, behind, and outside each seated occupant in the vehicle.

(9) Fail to submit to any of the following tests, or operate any vehicle that does not comply with all of the following:

(a) Vehicles shall be equipped with a muffler and spark arrester containing baffles, shall meet the muffler and spark arrester requirements specified in subsection (g) of section 81133 of Part 811, Off-Road Recreational Vehicles, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Act 451 of the Public Acts of 1994, being Section 324.81133(g) of the Michigan Compiled Laws and shall successfully pass a muffler and spark arrester baffle test. A vehicle shall successfully pass a muffler and spark arrester baffle test by preventing passage of a flexible, plastic rod, no larger than 3/8-inch in diameter, through the muffler and spark arrester when inserted through the exhaust outlet.

(b) A maximum noise level of 94 Db(A), or the current EPA emissions limit, shall be met. The testing provisions of current SAE J 1287, June 93 standard for ATV and motorcycle vehicles and SAE J 1169, March 93 for all other vehicles shall be followed and all vehicles shall pass a stationary sound level test. The stationary sound level test shall be administered from a 0.5 meter (19.69 inches) distance at one-half the engine's maximum rated RPM and as further described by current testing provisions for the particular vehicle.

(10) Operate any vehicle at any time without possessing a valid operator's or chauffeur's license, except as follows:

(a) A person at least 12 years of age and in possession of a valid ORV Safety Training Certificate from a program which meets the Michigan Department of Education standards and criteria, may operate either an ATV or motorcycle as specified upon the safety certificate while under direct supervision of a parent or adult guardian. This subsection shall not apply to a person subject to the restrictions of section 81140a of Part 811, Off-Road Recreational Vehicles,

of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Act 451 of the Public Acts of 1994, being Section 324.81140a of the Michigan Compiled Laws or subject to any other suspension or revocation of their right to operate an ORV.

(b) A person less than 16 years of age shall not operate a 3-wheeled ATV.

(11) Operate any type of vehicle and fail to present an operator's or chauffeur's license or ORV Safety Training Certificate upon the demand of any law enforcement officer or State Park personnel.

(12) Enter or use the ORV Area without complying with all posted regulatory, zoning, or directional signs, or operate a vehicle except in the directional pattern established and marked within the ORV Area.

(13) Enter or use the ORV Area without obtaining and displaying a valid ORV Area Parking Lot Voucher or Dune Ready Voucher at any time when such requirement is posted.

(14) Operate any vehicle while towing a contrivance other than a disabled vehicle or trailer, or tow a vehicle or trailer on other than the designated parking lot or paved entrance road without first obtaining proper written permission from the department. Passengers shall not occupy any trailer or disabled vehicle while it is being towed.

(15) Conduct any organized event without written permission of an authorized representative of the department.

(16) Drive or operate any motor driven vehicle at speeds exceeding 15 mph or perform exhibition type driving within the parking area or entrance road to the ORV Area. Exhibition driving means: performing wheelies, spinning tires, cutting circles, jump starts, or other erratic or irresponsible driving.

(17) Possess or consume an alcoholic beverage at any time in the ORV Area, ORV Voucher Center Area, or any area extending one-quarter of a mile from the boundary of the ORV Area.

(18) Operate a vehicle in violation of any provision of Part 811, Off-Road Recreational Vehicles, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Act 451 of the Public Acts of 1994, being Section 324.81101 to 324.81150 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, including prohibited operation while suspended or revoked under the laws of Michigan or the laws of the state in which the person resides.

This amended Order shall be posted on or after April 13, 2002.

Issued this 12th day of April, 2002.

K. L. Cool
Director

DRIVER AND/OR RIDER TIPS

There are a number of other considerations each vehicle operator should be aware of and keep in mind while enjoying the dunes:

- Be prepared to stop at any time. There may be a stalled or parked vehicle or a natural hazard such as a tree or stump on the other side of the hill that you are cresting.
- Drive defensively, be careful, stay alert and in control of your vehicle.
- No passing on the entrance ramp.
- ATV and motorcycle riders need to consider wearing protective clothing and gear.
- No side awnings on vehicles or trailers in the parking lot / staging area on Voucher days.
- Consider doubling up in the parking spaces if you have the extra room. It will maximize parking opportunities for others.
- Parking spaces are designed to be 12 feet x 60 feet. Vehicles and equipment extending beyond the 60 feet in length will need to unhook and park the tow vehicle in a nearby space.
- Be on time for your Voucher period. Make sure to have a Park Ranger validate your Voucher slip with a distinctive hole-punch upon arriving at the ORV Area Entrance Gate. The hole-punch will be required if re-entry is requested later in the day.
- Rule violations may subject operator to court citation, eviction and/or vehicle(s) impoundment. Please follow the posted rules for everyone's benefit and safety.
- Driver's license or ORV Safety Training Certificate must be in operator's possession at all times

If you have specific questions or concerns, please contact Silver Lake State Park. Additional ORV information can be found at the Michigan Department of Natural Resources web site.

MICHIGAN PARKS & RECREATION BUREAU

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PLEASE DRIVE SAFELY